

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 20994 021729Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 EA-11 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2281

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRD, XG, JA, XU

SUBJ : GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF : STATE 142046

1. AFTER SOME DELAY FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED EMBASSY 1972 STATISTICS FOR IMPORTS INTO FRANCE UNDER GSP SCHEME ARE UNAVAILABLE. FONMIN, WITH COOPERATION OTHER GOF MINISTRIES, WILL HOWEVER ATTEMPT TO PULL SOME GLOBAL FIGURES TOGETHER AFTER VACATION PERIOD ENDS. OFFICIAL ESTIMATES THAT FIGURES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER. EMBASSY WILL ALSO RAISE MATTER TOMORROW WITH FINANCE MINISTRY IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN STATISTICS MORE RAPIDLY.

2. FONMIN OFFICIAL MADE FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS, WHICH APPLY TO EC AS WHOLE RATHER THAN FRANCE. WHEN GSP INTRODUCED IN MID-1971 ONLY 15 OF 100 ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT. REASON WAS INITIAL CONFUSION OVER PROCEDURES AND UNAWARENESS OF OPPORTUNITIES SYSTEM OFFERED. SITUATION CHANGED MARKEDLY IN 1972 AND APPRECIABLE NUMBER OF LDCS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF GSP SYSTEM AND SIZEABLE VOLUME OF TRADE WAS INVOLVED.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 20994 021729Z

3. OFFICIAL SAID THAT LDCS WHICH ALREADY HAD FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL

INDUSTRIAL BASE WERE PROFITING MOST FROM GSP SYSTEM. COUNTRY THAT HAS FAR AND AWAY BENEFITTED MOST IS YUGOSLAVIA IN WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS TOTALLING TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. HONG KONG, INDIA, SINGAPORE AND SOUTH KOREA HAVE ALSO EXPORTED CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF GOODS TO EC UNDER GSP. NEXT, BUT AT A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER VOLUME, ARE BRAZIL AND MEXICO. NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE REALIZED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN EXPORTS FOR ONE PRODUCT UNDER GSP. OFFICIAL CITED IRANIAN EXPORT OF RUGS AND LUB OIL FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHREIN.

4. FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID NO SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS EMPLOYED. INSTEAD AN ANNUAL CEILING FOR THREE CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS, SENSITIVE, QUASI-SENSITIVE AND NON-SENSITIVE, IS APPLIED. DURING 1972 GSP WERE SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL DOZEN SENSITIVE AND QUASI-SENSITIVE ITEMS AFTER CEILING WAS REACHED. TROUBLESOME ITEMS INCLUDED PHOSPHORIC ACID (MEXICO), LEATHER, SKINS, SOME TEXTILE PRODUCTS.

5. FONMIN OFFICIAL, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF GSP SYSTEM SINCE INCEPTION, SAID FRENCH INDUSTRY COMPLAINTS WERE SERIOUS PROBLEM DURING LAUNCHING OF GSP SYSTEM IN 1970 AND 1971, BUT THINGS HAVE COOLED DOWN CONSIDERABLY DURING THE PAST YEAR. STONE

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